

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 22 and 25 are currently amended, and claims 35-37 have been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 22-30 and 35-37 are pending, and claims 1-21 and 31-34 have been canceled.

Figs. 2, 4 and 5 have been amended to show proper cross sectional hatching, and Fig. 8 has been amended to eliminate duplicate reference number 478.

The IDS filed January 13, 2005 was objected to because there was not a concise statement of the relevance of *each* patent listed that was not in the English language. A resubmitted IDS accompanies this amendment that provides a statement of relevance for each non-English reference that appears to be relevant.

Claims 22-24 and 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Burge (US 4,027,572). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the plurality of splines are evenly disposed around the tool body. Burge discloses theft-prevention screw fastenings (nut or bolt) that require special tools for their removal. A nut constructed according to the teachings of Burge comprises an upper hub or boss (11), a flange (10) and a lower hub or boss (12). The upper hub (11) includes a plurality of unevenly spaced splines so that only a special tool (Fig. 3) with correspondingly spaced pins (19) that engage the upper hub (11) can unscrew the nut. There is no motivation to make Burge's splines evenly spaced because that would destroy the antitheft objective of the nut.

Claims 22-24 and 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nagano (EP 0512149). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the tool operating member is axially thinner than the tool body. Such a structure produces a compact tool that is especially suited for hand grasping since the hand muscles may fold over the tool operating member. Nagano discloses a tool (9) comprising a splined tubular portion (12) for engaging a screw ring (3), a hexagonally-shaped first

tightening portion (9a), a second tightening portion (9b) with flats for engaging a wrench or spanner, and a third tightening portion (9c) having a square bore for engaging a pneumatic screwdriver or ratchet. Insofar as Nagano's first tightening portion (9a) is interpreted to be a tool operating member and the splined tubular portion (12) is interpreted to be a tool body, the tool operating member (9a) is not thinner than the tool body (12). Furthermore, reducing the thickness of Nagano's first tightening portion (9a) would weaken the hexagonal portion, thus increasing the risk that the socket used to engage such a hexagonal portion could strip the edges of the first tightening portion. Thus, Nagano neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter presently claimed.

Claims 22-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kastan, et al (US 4,545,691). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the tool operating member projects radially outwardly from the tool body and that the tool operating member is axially thinner than the tool body. Kastan, et al discloses a bearing assembly (38) or (64) comprising an inner race (40, 66), an outer race (44, 70), a plurality of ball bearings (42, 68) disposed between the inner race (40, 66) and the outer race (44, 70), a bearing housing (46, 72) enclosing the aforementioned structures, a split ring (50, 76) and a lock ring (54, 80) that presses the split ring (50, 76) against the bearing housing (46, 72). Insofar as the lock rings (54, 80) are interpreted to be tool bodies and the knurls (90) on the split rings (50, 76) are interpreted to be tool operating members, then the tool operating member (50, 76, 90) does not project radially outwardly from the tool body (54, 80), and the tool operating member is not axially thinner than the tool body (54, 80). Kastan, et al neither discloses nor suggests the presently claimed subject matter.

Claim 25 has been amended to clarify that the tool operating member projects radially outwardly from the tool body. As noted above, Kastan, et al's tool operating member (50, 76, 90) does not *project* radially outwardly from the tool body (54, 80).

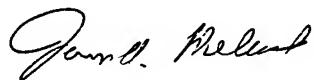
Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kastan, et al. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

MASAHIRO YAMANAKA
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PATENT

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the enclosed Figs. 2, 4, 5 and 8 for the corresponding Figures filed on December 31, 2003. Figs. 2, 4 and 5 have been amended to add appropriate hatching for the materials therein. Fig. 8 has been amended to eliminate the duplicate reference numbers 478. Annotated sheets showing the changes also accompany the replacement sheets. All sheets are attached to the end of this paper.

ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

Inventor: MASAHIRO YAMANAKA

"TOOL FOR A BICYCLE CRANK AXLE BOLT"

Application No.: 10/751,247

Atty. Docket No. SIC-02-009-3

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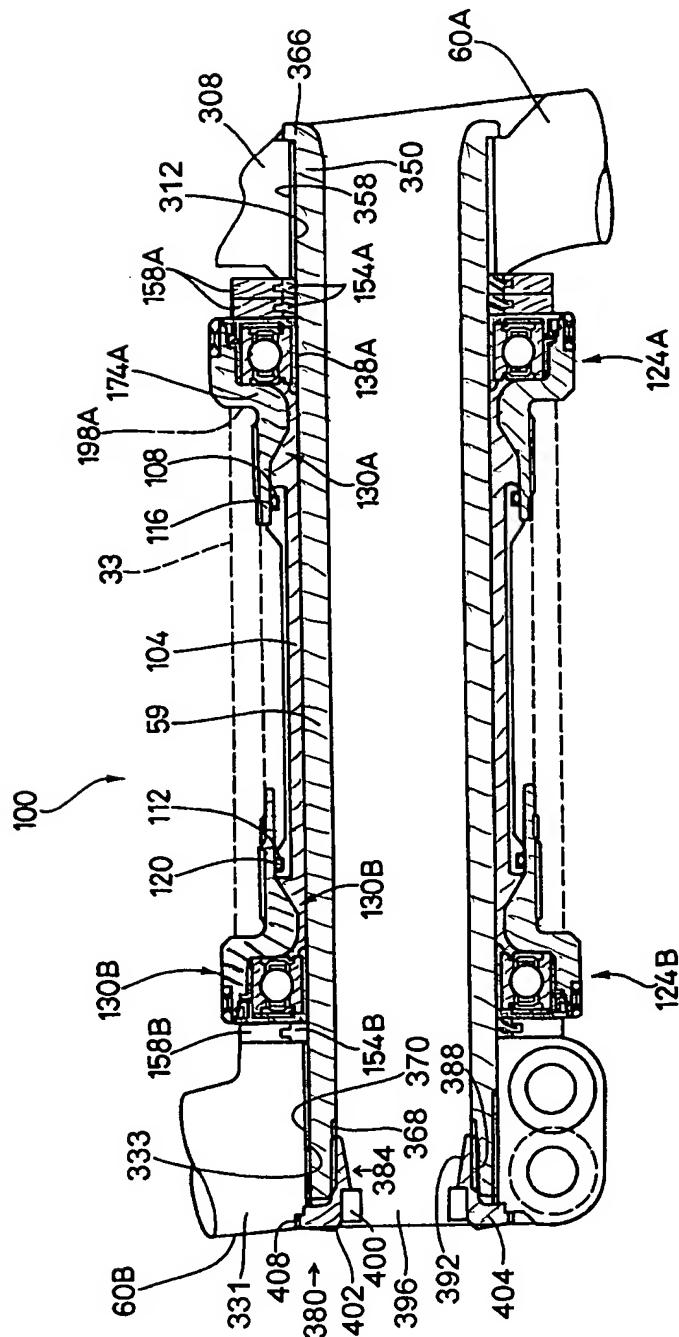


FIG. 2

ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

Inventor: MASAHIRO YAMANAKA

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FIG. 4

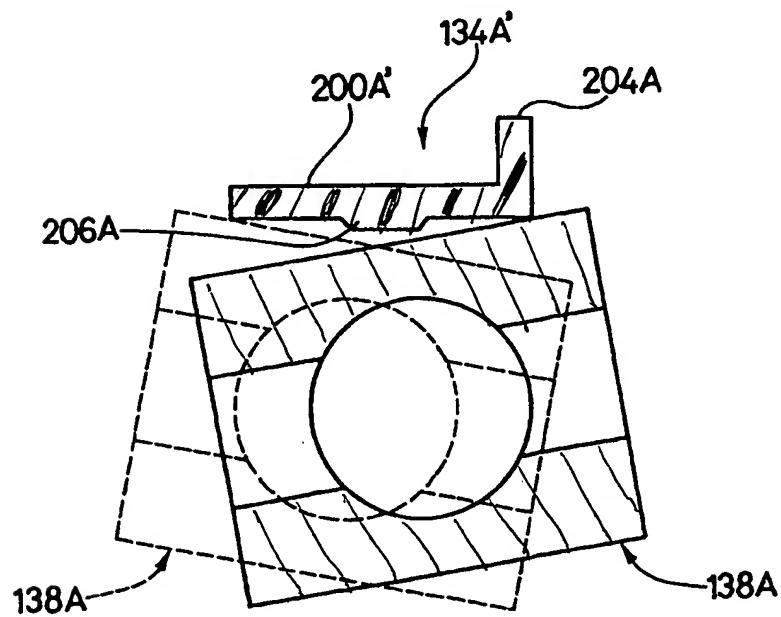
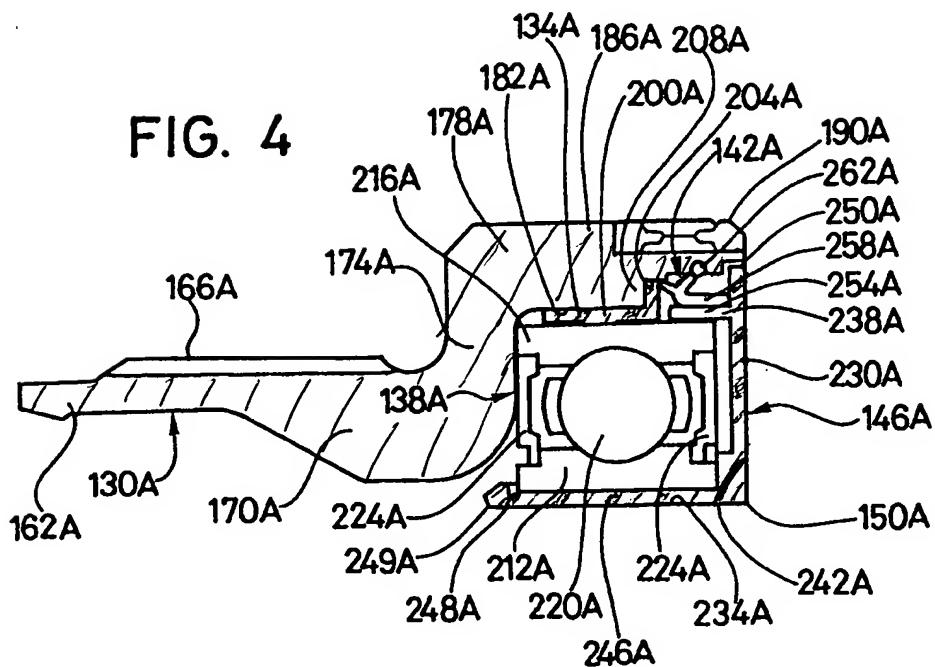


FIG. 5

ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

Inventor: MASAHIRO YAMANAKA

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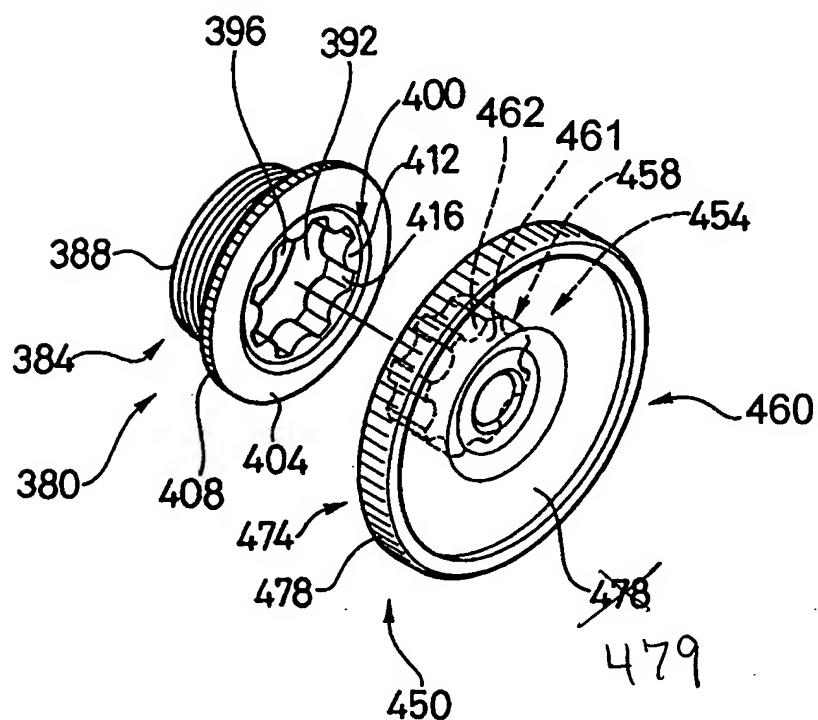


FIG. 8